Project Report

(PraLak Crochet<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/main.php>**)**

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Goals and Purpose

- The purpose of this web-site is to be able to showcase some of my crochet projects, which I have been able to develop over years.
- This website gives an insight into the kind of products I have been able to create, materials used, the incurred cost in making each one of these products
- Product lines like CAPS, BAGS and STOLES are categorized under different sections for ease of access
- Some of the crochet related articles and videos are also found at respective sections
- The future goals include
    - developing an ecommerce website, creating a market to sell these products online
    - developing a section, which allows users to customize the products
    - include a blog within the website
    - implement a section that allows users to share their reviews and comments
- The primary audiences of PraLak Crochet are women, men and kids of all ages.

Implementation

- The basic components used to built the website: HTML5, CSS3, javascript, jquery and php.

- **STRUCTURE:**
    - The structure of the website is laid out in a syntactic way using HTML 5 and is also validated
    - The content of the website is divided into various sections semantically, allowing users to access it with ease
    - The common elements of the website like the header, footer and navigation sections are enclosed in a separate php file

- **STYLING:**
  - The box-shadow attribute is set to give the floating look to the **<body>** element;

    box-shadow: 0 0 100px #663300;

  - Combination of text-stroke and text-shadow is adapted on the **<h1>** tag to highlight the header against the background image.

    -webkit-text-stroke: 1px #125212;text-shadow: 3px 3px 0 #000, -1px -1px 0 #000, 1px -1px 0 #000, -1px 1px 0 #000, 1px 1px 0 #000;

  - Google-Fonts are extensively used on the navigation elements and the header tag . A customized theme was created for **'TABS'** plugin using jQuery-UI Theme-Roller

- **FUNCTION:**
  - **phighlightnavigation.js**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/js/phighlightnavigation.js> jquery function is developed which highlights the current page in use.
  - Using PHP's **<include>** function not only speed-up the development time, but also in the future would help in maintaining and updating the website. The common entities of the website, like the **header**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/php-includes/pheader.php> details ,**the navagiation**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/php-includes/pnavigation.php> lists and the **footer** <http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/php-includes/pfooter.php>information are included in a php file.
  - **TABS** <http://jqueryui.com/tabs/>widget is used to divide the product lines within each sections. TABS is a jquery widget, which provides semantic separation in a single content area with multiple panels, each associated with a header in a list.
  - **COLORBOX**<http://www.jacklmoore.com/colorbox/ > plugin is used to display the details of each product. Colorbox is a jquery plugin that supports photos, grouping, slideshow, ajax, inline, and iframed content
  - **JW Player** <http://www.jwplayer.com/>is used to embed crochet related you-tube videos into the website. JW player is one of the popular video players used to embed **FLASH**<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adobe_Flash>/**HTML5**<http://html5video.org/> to the websites

- **DETAILS:**
  - The **main page**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/main.php> gives a brief introduction to the purpose of the website and the varieties of products displayed. **PraLak-Crochet**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/main.php> is a repository for crochet products. There are also sections for crochet related **articles**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/articles.php> and crochet related **youtube videos.**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/videos.php>
  - There are 3 separate sections for different product types;
    - **WOMEN**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/women.php>
    - **MEN**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/men.php>
    - **KIDS**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/kids.php>
    - **CUSTOMIZE**(future project)<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/others.php>,which would help the users to navigate through the web-site.
  - These sections are sub-divided using the jquery widget **TABS**<http://jqueryui.com/tabs/>.
  - On choosing a particular product,the detailed description, like available colors, size, price and the different materials used are displayed using **Color-Box** (jQuery plugin)<http://www.jacklmoore.com/colorbox/>
  - The details of each of the products are stored in a separate html file(**women-caps.php**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/women-caps.php>). On choosing a product the color-box is initiated to display just a part of an **external file**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/women-caps.php#white-creame-cap> based on the id-value of the product;

```
$("#id-value").colorbox({href:function(){return    $(this).attr('href')    +
'#id-value';},iframe:  true,scrolling:  false,  width:  "50%",  height:
"58%",maxWidth:'675px', maxHeight:'380px',opacity:0.1});
```

Future Directions

- Improvise the functionalities used to render jquery color-box by developing a more generalized function to display the details of the product;
```
$("#myid").click(function(){
Var save-id ='#myid';
$(save-id).colorbox({href:function(){return         $(this).attr('href')         +
save-id;},iframe:    true,scrolling:    false,    width:    "50%",    height:
"58%",maxWidth:'675px', maxHeight:'380px',opacity:0.1});
});
```

- Develop a blog page, where users can read about my journey in Crocheting
- Complete **Comments & Reviews**<http://morpheus.dce.harvard.edu/~lmanjuna/pralak28/lproject/comm-reviews.php> section by establishing a storage solution through cookies or server-side solutions. This would enable the audience to communicate and review the products
- Make the web-site mobile-accessible by developing an auto-size function to make color-box responsive
- Develop an ecommerce website, enabling the users to buy the products from the repository. This is achieved by developing server-side codes to handle and process the orders from the users
- Develop a section allowing users to **CUSTOMIZE** the products. In this section users can place orders for personalized products. Options include different pattern-types,colors and size

Summary

The overall experience of the project helped in understanding some of the essential aspects of website development. Some of the good practices which aided this project are;

- Having a pre-planned and organized model towards the development of the website, helped in hassle free and on time realization of the project

- Building the list of features like,
  - different pages of the website
  - subdividing sections in each pages
  - composing information to be included in the sections
  - outlining the functionalities within the elements,

  helped to execute the development process efficiently

- Every design and the functionalities were developed and inspected before building it into the actual website. This allowed defects to be found and removed before the feature is incorporated into the website
- The design was iterated and built in small chunks, which eased out the debugging process
- Understanding of pseudo classes and the right usage of selectors was crucial to style different html elements
- Recognized the importance of highlighting the navigation pages and choosing user friendly colors
- Being familiar with some of the existing jquery libraries and widgets like jQuery TABS, colorbox and free-web fonts like **Google Fonts**, **FontSquirrel** etc came-in handy and time productive
- Using php <include> to bring together common sections of the page like the header, footer and the navigation, proved time efficient and made debugging a lot easier.
- Also debugging the code after every step proved lot simpler than having to debug the entire project towards the end. Using validators as often as necessary and using window console was efficient

Some of the sections that require improvements are;

- Implementation of more responsive colorbox. Since the existing jQuery libraries are used, the functionalities are predefined.Thus having more knowledge in javascript would allow to develop a customized colorbox based on the needs of the website.
- Having more knowledge of server-side coding, helps to convert this project into an ecommerce website, which creates market to sell the products online.
- Adding a section to customize the products, allows users to choose from different textures, colors and size.